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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Extension Service

Summary on Home Food Supplies

December, 1942

Production of maximum home food needs on every farm and around smaller towns and some suburbs is a necessary part of 1943 food goals, the Department of Agriculture said today.

Need for home food production has never been greater, a Department statement pointed out. One-fifth of our total food supply and half of our commercial canned vegetables, will be needed by our armed forces and Allies. Vast quantities of food will be needed by other nations as they are liberated by the United Nations armies. Increased war activity in this country calls for ever increasing amounts of food for war workers.

Our transportation facilities are taxed to the limit and can haul only necessary food. Machinery, labor to process and transport food, tin and other normal supplies are short. Every bit of food produced for home use frees that much food for our armies, Allies, and war-populated cities.

It is, therefore, a prerequisite goal that every farm family produce and preserve as much as possible of the family's food supply. Special emphasis should be put on raising at home the family's poultry, eggs, milk, butter, cheese, dry beans, peas, fresh and stored vegetables and fruits, and at least all the meat allowed the family under the rationing plan. Acreage of some vegetables like peppers, artichokes, asparagus, celery, cauliflower, cucumbers, head lettuce, and melons may need to be reduced to lessen the strain on transportation involving long hauls and concentrate on more needed foods with more food value.

Year-round gardens, wherever possible, producing the fullest supply of tomatoes, green leafy and yellow vegetables, will be necessary to assure adequate supplies of such vital vitamins as A and C, minerals, and other food elements. Farm gardens need to be enlarged and succession plantings made to extend the number of months of production for eating fresh, for storage, and preserving.

Every farm family that possibly can should begin to produce more fruits by planting strawberries, grapes, small fruits, and suitable kinds of tree fruits.

Town and suburban dwellers who have sufficient open sunny space and fertile ground, or access to community plots or allotment gardens, have an opportunity to serve their country and their families by growing a large supply of vegetables.

However the seed, fertilizer and insecticide supplies are such that we must not waste them on infertile ground or by neglecting the garden.

Many suburban and small town residents can also produce their own eggs, poultry, and rabbit meat, milk and other foods.

All possible home food production is not only a patriotic duty but a necessary insurance that national health will be kept up to par for the arduous war tasks farm and city folks alike must perform.

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